

Hurd's son, Byron Hurd, inspired in him, and his lack of confidence both in this son and in his grandson, caused her home to become the refuge and her friendship the boon of his declining years. In consequence, it appears, that while young Dr. Hurd, with whom she was then on the friendliest terms, was writing Mrs. Cramer begging that she use her influence to persuade his grandfather to forward the annual allowance of a thousand dollars begrudgingly allowed by the old man to his grandson, the miserly octogenarian was volubly presenting Mrs. Cramer with gifts of not less than \$6,000 at a time.

Remembered Son's Threats.

That marriage was at one time talked of by Mrs. Cramer and Fenton J. Hurd may be supposed from a letter written as follows, in March, 1906, by Mr. Hurd to Mrs. Cramer:

"Washington, D. C., Mar. 25, 1906. 'My dear friend, Mrs. Cramer: You may think it strange that I, with my good health and vigorous constitution, have never married again, and no doubt you have heard the say that there is no real happy life only in a married life. Now, I will tell you why I never have, nor want to marry again. Fanny, my son's wife, told me herself that Byron (his son) said that no woman could ever take his mother's place, and she said he swore by all that is great and good, and as true as there is a God in heaven, that if I got married, that he would shoot and kill both of us.

"So, you see, if I should marry there would be no happiness in it, for he might appear and carry out his threats, and Fanny said that with his malicious disposition she has no doubt but that he would do it. I have drawn up a note of \$10,000, which I think is small enough compensation for the happiness you have and are giving me, and I think Mr. Ross, who is to settle my estate, will pay the note out of the first money collected out of my estate, for it is my wish that he should do so, and it would be foolish for them to litigate the matter. The circumstances are explained there is not a judge in the court in the United States, but what would give judgment for the value of the note, and they would have to pay the cost. Truly yours, F. J. HURD."

Denies Acting As Medium.

Mr. Hurd, it seems, has always believed in spiritualism, a belief which has strengthened with the passing years since the death of his wife. With this beloved companion of his early manhood he believes that he has communicated since her death, through certain spiritualistic mediums. Mrs. Cramer, however, asserts emphatically that instead of encouraging this idea on the part of old Mr. Hurd, she has often tried to dissuade him from his belief in the cult. Although he suggested on more than one occasion that she might prove a successful medium, Mrs. Cramer declares that no seances were ever held in her home, and that she has never pretended to give credence to the doctrines of spiritualism.

Mrs. Cramer contends that in view of the kindness she showed to old Mr. Hurd during his seventeen years' residence with her, and her son and daughter, it is only natural that he should have desired to see her removed from the possibility of want, and should have urged her more than once to resign her duties as a Government employee. Indeed, she alleges to believe that the old man's gifts to her were made in pursuance with a determination on his part to see that she was provided for, in return for the kindness and care which he had received in her home.

From the time of the death of his wife, Mrs. Cramer says, old Mr. Hurd preferred to live anywhere than with his son, Byron Hurd, or his grandson, Dr. Lee M. Hurd. The former, he feared, and for the latter he had no regard whatever, says Mrs. Cramer's answer. He talked, it is alleged, about the "spiritual" habits of his son, and declared that neither the son nor the

grandson had a right to expect anything further than what he had already done for them. Notwithstanding old Mr. Hurd's alleged distrust of Byron and Lee Hurd, however, Mrs. Cramer admits that she has always been on the friendliest terms with both men and their wives. It was due to her influence, she asserts, that Fenton J. Hurd on several occasions consented to visit the families. It was also her custom, so her answer goes to show, to frequently exert her influence in behalf of the grandson. Dr. Lee Hurd, whenever he was trying to obtain a remittance from her, would befriend. As late as March, 1906, Mrs. Cramer shows that she invited Dr. Hurd and his wife to be her guests at the inaugural ceremonies.

Deposits Her Savings.

Mrs. Cramer, in concluding her answer to Dr. Hurd's charges, avers that the money which is deposited to her credit in the Washington Loan and Trust Company is in no part that received from Fenton J. Hurd. She states that she has been for many years in the Government employ, and that during this time she has been provident and has succeeded in saving money. With her own means she purchased the house on Connecticut street, which she occupied for some length of time, and finally sold. For several years she succeeded in making the kind treatment which she paid her current expenses, including the maintenance and education of her children, and the Washington Loan and Trust Company is that which she accumulated by her own efforts, it is declared. To show the unkind treatment which old Mr. Hurd received from his son, Byron, Mrs. Cramer attaches to her answer to Dr. Hurd's charges, a letter found by her after Mr. Hurd had left Washington, in the room formerly occupied by him. An enclosed slip, Mrs. Cramer alleges, bears the words: "Please forward this letter after my death.—F. J. Hurd." The letter is as follows:

Reproaches His Son.

"Son Byron: I write this to be forwarded to you after my death. Instead of your writing to me, and saying, 'So father, I am going to be married, and I am happy, you wrote to Hattie Smith and said to her that if she married your father, that you would shoot her, and even described the revolver that you would shoot her with.

"Well, I commenced then to give away my property, rather than have it come into your hands, as you often said that if I got married you would shoot me. I gave Hattie at that time \$1,200 and have been giving away ever since. At that time, my inventory was \$35,000, instead of its now being less than \$40,000, so if I had got married and had died, the widow's share of my estate would not have been more than one-third of what I have given away. I have never had you have it, after your being so mean to a father that had always been so good to you.

"You can't help but remember how many thousands I have given you, and all I have got for my goodness, is to say you will murder me if I made myself a little home and be happy the rest of my life instead of wandering over the world alone the rest of my life.

"Think it all over and see if you can be happy with what you have done. Your father, E. J. HURD."

Gratitude Is Claimed.

To this so-called Byron Hurd, Mrs. Cramer asserts that old Mr. Hurd had given a farm of 500 acres near Wallenburg, N. Y., and also a rug store and its equipment. She declares that Fenton J. Hurd felt the strongest resentment toward this son, as well as fear of him, and that as this resentment and fear increased the old man's grateful affection to her became stronger.

The relations between Mrs. Cramer and the son and grandson of her lodger were always the most cordial, says her answer to the charges, in answer to the invitation extended by her to the

Lee Hurds to visit her for the inaugural ceremonies in March, 1906, Mrs. Hurd wrote:

"I want to thank you for your dear, sweet kindness in thinking to ask us as your guests, and were there a possibility of our getting away there is nothing we would enjoy more, but I tell you my three youngsters keep me busy every minute, and so we will have to defer our long promised visit again."

While young Dr. Hurd and his wife would become impatient over the penury of the old Fenton J. Hurd, Mrs. Cramer claims that she always exerted her influence to persuade the old man to be generous toward the members of his family. On December 24, 1906, Dr. Lee Hurd wrote her:

Lee M. Hurd's Letters. "My dear Mrs. Cramer: I got a check for \$100 from grandfather—very nice letter—but he hates to give the regular amount. (An annual allowance of \$1,000.) See if you can persuade him to send me the \$100. Just as well use it now as later, as he suggests. After he is gone we don't know what the future holds for us."

Later, on January 6, 1910, Dr. Hurd wrote:

"My dear Mrs. Cramer: What progress are you making with grandfather? I can use the balance to better purpose than to hoard it up. What did he do—forget to give you your small Christmas present for us?"

"Yours sincerely, LEE M. HURD." In March of the preceding year, Mrs. Hurd had a serious illness. At Mrs. Cramer's apartment in the De Soto he employed a trained nurse for several days, but was later removed to the hospital. Dr. Lee Hurd came down from Greenwich, Conn., to see for himself what the old man's condition was, and persuaded his grandfather to return to Greenwich with him.

On March 17 last Dr. Hurd wrote to Mrs. Cramer:

"Grandfather got tired of the hospital, and wanted to go home. I told him you were in New York, and Ford's wife (Mrs. Cramer's daughter-in-law) could take care of him, and as he was almost himself again, he came on home with me."

Mrs. Cramer alleges to believe that Fenton J. Hurd is being unlawfully held in Greenwich by his grandson, that his liberty has been taken from him by Dr. Hurd in hope of obtaining the remainder of the old man's fortune, and that he was adjudged incompetent by the probate court of Greenwich on false representations made by Dr. Lee M. Hurd.

COLONEL COMFORT PERISHES IN CREEK

CHESTER, Pa., July 12.—The body of Col. Silas E. Comfort, vice president of Pennsylvania Military College, was found in Leipsville creek, near here, this morning.

The police are at a loss as yet to say whether the case is one of suicide or murder.

Colonel Comfort's hat was found on the bank of the creek. His watch-chain was broken, as if by an assailant who had grabbed for his watch, and there was a bruise on his head, but both watch and money were still on the body.

The suicide theory was advanced because since his election as city consulting engineer of Chester, at a salary of \$4,500 a year, considerable criticism has reached his ears to the effect that he was not practical, and doubts were expressed relating to whether his theoretical knowledge of the subject would suffice for the big undertaking upon which he was about to enter.

BALLOT AS WEAPON URGED UPON LABOR

Secretary Frank Morrison Offers Remedy to Stage Employes' Delegates.

Declaring that organized labor has not been fairly dealt with by the present Administration, and that its enemies are in a majority in Congress, Frank Morrison, secretary of the American Federation of Labor, today made an earnest appeal to the delegates attending the convention of the International Alliance of Theater Stage Employes at Eagles Hall, to use the ballot as the remedy.

Mr. Morrison urged the 300 men who attended to listen to his utterances, to make every effort during the coming Congressional elections to defeat the members of Congress seeking re-election who are known to be opposed to the interests of labor.

"Vote only for our friends," said Mr. Morrison. "You know who they are. We have the strength to defeat all our enemies if we go about it in a well-organized way, and there is no reason why we should not succeed."

Responsible for Fight.

"It was organized labor that brought about the successful fight on Speaker Cannon and the House rules during the past session, although this is not generally known, and we can be responsible for much more if we only make our ballots count. We should have at least thirty or forty members of Congress who are friends of labor, and we would then have no difficulty in having enacted the legislation which is so necessary to the advancement and protection of our cause."

Mr. Morrison then explained labor's victory over Representative Littlefield of Maine, five years ago, and other cases not so prominent. He concluded his remarks by criticizing the manner in which he alleged labor has succeeded in the courts in regard to injunctions, and in this connection he declared that labor had always done right, and will continue to do what it considers right, and will take the consequences.

Chairman Spencer, of the trades department of the American Federation of Labor, also addressed the meeting. He discussed organization, and pointed out the benefits derived therefrom.

New York Controversy.

Following the speech-making the delegates knuckled down to business, and put in another strenuous day. The morning session was taken up principally by the consideration of the report of the executive committee, and a constitutional question regarding the standing of the New York local.

In 1906 the New York local threatened to strike at a theater where traveling alliance hands were employed, and its international officers were suspended and fined \$100 each.

The Brooklyn local was fined \$100 for its sympathetic movement in connection with the New Yorkers. It is considered likely that these differences will be straightened out without any considerable difficulty. The delegates will tonight participate in a German feast at Eagles Hall, which has been arranged in their honor by the executive committee, and a committee will be served, and several prominent labor men will speak. The annual election of officers will make Friday, and the campaigning has taken on a lively form.

SUICIDE PACT FAILS; MAN LOSES NERVE

New Yorker Shoots Woman, But Fails to End Own Life—Sleeps Instead.

NEW YORK, July 12.—In a suicide pact, Casimir Malski shot Mrs. Antonia Skora, twenty-one years old, three times today after escorting the young woman to her home.

Malski, according to his story, then tried to shoot himself, but his cartridges would not explode, and so he fled to his own home.

Two policemen found him there, sound asleep and snoring loudly. They took him to Bellevue Hospital, where Mrs. Skora lay dying. The man calmly admitted that he had shot her. Mrs. Skora tried to shield him until she was informed that he had not carried out his part of the pact. She then identified him.

The police had a hard time getting at the bottom of the shooting until they found a letter signed by Malski and Mrs. Skora. It was addressed to the woman's husband. He was told that Malski loved Mrs. Skora, and he was accused of having treated his wife cruelly.

"If you ever marry again, know and learn how to be a good husband," the note said.

Mrs. Skora's three-year-old daughter, Antonette, was near her when she was shot. There is no hope for the woman's recovery.

After the shooting Malski ran from the building. Mrs. Skora, though mortally wounded, noticed that his straw hat fell from his head as he ran. She got up and threw it out of a window.

"He had felt almost at the feet of Police- men Byrnes and Neese, who heard the shots. They ran up the stairs and found the woman's clothing strewn from the pistol shot."

"What's the matter," they asked, after extinguishing the flames. "I have been shot," she replied. "Who did it?" asked the policemen. "A strange man. My husband usually comes home from work at this time, and I leave the door open. The man came in and I thought he was my husband. He shot me."

After the policemen had sent her to the hospital they searched the room, and on a table found several notes. These gave the clue to Malski.

PARENTS OF 13 HONORED.

PENSACOLA, Fla., July 12.—Mr. and Mrs. T. Barber, of this city, have received from Governor Gilchrist a handsome spoon bearing the seal of the State of Florida.

Married nineteen years ago, the wife is now only thirty-seven, but Mr. and Mrs. Barber are the parents of thirteen children. Six of the children are twins. Governor Gilchrist suggested that the Legislature pass an act allowing the parents a pension.

CASTORIA

For Infants and Children. The Kind You Have Always Bought Bears the Signature of *Wm. D. Gifford*

SOLDIERS TO FORCE CHEERS FOR CZAR

Thousands Sent to Riga to Compel Both Enthusiasm and Order.

RIGA, Russia, July 12.—Thousands of loyal soldiers are being thrown into Riga in expectation of the visit Czar Nicholas is to make in the next few days to unveil the monument in memory of Peter the Great.

The town is practically under martial law. The authorities are keeping secret the exact day of the Czar's arrival, as well as the route he will traverse. Along whatever route is chosen, the householders will be compelled to move out on the day of the visit, and their homes will be occupied by police and soldiers.

Outwardly the authorities will see that there are appearances of rejoicing. The inhabitants of the city have been ordered to decorate their houses elaborately, and people are being trained to cheer at the proper time.

It is said here, however, that the feeling is most bitter toward Nicholas, even the most loyal subjects objecting to the methods the police have adopted to guard the ruler.

Even more elaborate preparations than usual have been made, because of the small reign of terror recently. So fearful is the government that harm may come to the Czar here that Alexander, Minister of the Interior, Kurolov is in charge of the police preparations.

TALKS OF HOOKWORM.

FREDERICKSBURG, Va., July 12.—Dr. Allen W. Freeman, assistant State health commissioner, gave a lecture here at the courthouse to the teachers attending the normal institute and the citizens, his main subject being "The Hookworm."

WEDDINGS IN MARYLAND. HAGERSTOWN, Md., July 12.—Miss Little M. Merritt, of Low Moor, Va., and Charles H. Patterson, of Cherrando, Va., came to Hagerstown and were married at the First Baptist parsonage by the Rev. E. K. Thomas.

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